IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 17, 19-22 in accordance with the following:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A method, comprising:

evaluating a dependency graph of a graphics creation process using a computer, comprising:

passing a function of a first dependency node to a second dependency node; and

evaluating the function as part of an evaluation of the second dependency node.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A method, comprising:

evaluating a dependency graph of a graphics creation process using a computer, comprising:

passing a function of a first dependency node to a second dependency node, the function comprising a self evaluating data structure comprising a function calling method and containing information describing a set of input and output parameters the function accepts where the information determines if function attribute types within the dependency graph are compatible and comprising default values for all input and output parameters;

mapping parameters of first and second functions of the first and second nodes, where the mapping comprises an index, defines a relationship where input parameters are ignored and output parameters are unmapped and take on default values, where parameter value and type are passed for the mapping and the function data structure and value index are passed for the mapping; and

evaluating the function as part of an evaluation of the second dependency node comprising determining a type of a passed parameter where parameter types are identified dynamically as the dependency graph is executed.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) A method, comprising:

evaluating a dependency graph of a graphics creation process using a computer, comprising:

passing a function from a first node in a node network to a second node in the node network; and

evaluating the function as part of an evaluation of the second node.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus comprising a computer including a dependency